REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 10, 2006, and the references cited therewith. Claims 1-24 are pending in this application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-7, 9, 11-14, 18-22 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's formal rejections thereto, and to further define the invention over the art. No new matter has been entered as a result of the changes made thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112. These claims have been amended to comply with the Examiner's rejection and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-12 and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Philbrick, et al. (U.S. 2005/020458 A1), hereinafter simply Philbrick. On page 4 of the subject action, the Examiner states that "Philbrick does not teach comparing count data for the received frame with a frame length of the validated frame." Independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 18 have been amended to incorporate this limitation and therefore are believed to be patentable over Philbrick.

Claims 4-5, 9-10, 13, 15-16, 20 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Philbrick, et al. (U.S. 2005/020458 A1) in view of Kikuchi, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,918,080 B2). On page 6 of the subject action, the Examiner states that "Philbrick nor Kikuchi do not teach checking the validity of the frame comprises providing an output signal indicating a negative response status if said count data is greater than said maximum frame length." Independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 18 have been amended to incorporate this limitation. Since dependent claims 4-5, 9-10, 13, 15-16, 20 and 22-23 depend, either directly or indirectly upon independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 18 these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 14 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Philbrick, et al. (U.S. 2005/020458 A1) in view of Kikuchi, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,918,080 B2) and further in view of Webster (U.S. Patent 5,307,351). The subject matter of claims 14 and 21 has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 6 and 11. The Examiner states that "Webster teaches checking the validity of the frame comprises providing an output signal indicating a negative receive response status if said count data is greater than said maximum frame length."

However, Webster also states "if the total retransmit indication count accumulated from the individual counts of the memory array 78 is below a predetermined minimum number count or is zero, the frame length is set to the predetermined maximum frame length..." Webster, col. 7, lines 25-29. This differs from the Applicants' newly amended claims. Newly amended claim 1 is provided below for the Examiner's convenience:

> 1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein instructions that when executed by a machine result in the following:
> providing data in a location of a memory array having a programmable data element, said location associated with a predetermined frame type of a received frame;
> receiving an input signal indicating if said received frame contains an error;
> checking a state of a first check bit and providing an output signal indicating a negative receive response status if said state of the first check bit indicates an unsupported state;
> checking said state of a second check bit and providing an output signal indicating a positive reception status if a maximum frame length is not checked;
> comparing count data for said received frame with a maximum frame length in said location of said memory associated with said predetermined frame type if a maximum frame length is to be checked;
> providing an output signal indicating a negative receive response status if said count data is greater than said maximum frame length, and in response to said negative receive response checking the validity of said frame; and
> providing an output signal indicating a positive receive response status if said count data is less than or equal to said maximum frame length. (Emphasis Added).

As shown above, newly amended claim 1 discloses "providing an output signal indicating a positive receive response status if said count data is less than or equal to said maximum frame length." This is not what is described in Webster. In fact, Webster teaches setting a frame length to a predetermined maximum frame length if the frame length is below a predetermined minimum number count or is zero. Moreover, Applicants are unable to find any mention in Webster of providing an output signal indicating either a positive or a negative response. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Webster does not teach the limitation suggested by the Examiner.

Since dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-17 and 19-24 depend, either directly or indirectly upon independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 18 Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (603-668-6560) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
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Title: Frame Validation

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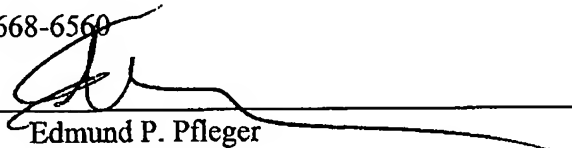
Respectfully submitted,

PAK-LUNG SETO ET AL.

By their Representatives,

Customer Number: 45459

603-668-6560

Date 7/10/06

By _____
Edmund P. Pfleger
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this _10_ day of July, 2006.

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